SAID 'LEADING RACE' 5-1 6-7-68

RFK Killed to Avert JFK Probe, Hanoi Says

HONG KONG (AP)—North Vietnam's army newspaper said today Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was killed because he was leading the U.S. presidential race and, if elected, would have reopened the investigation into the 1963 assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

"The bullets that killed Robert Kennedy," Quan Doi Nhan Dan declared in a commentary broadcast by Radio Hanoi, "were fixed to the U.S. presidential race between Kennedy and his adversaries.

"If Robert Kennedy had won he would have tried to bring into the light the assassination of his brother and take revenge for his brother.

"Robert Kennedy was eliminated by those criminals who wanted to avoid all chance of his revenge," the newspaper said.

Both Kennedys, the paper said, were murdered in a country "where the U.S. capitalist leaders do not hesitate to kill others by any means in order to get rid of opponents and obstacles in the way of their power and wealth."

The paper characterized Robert Kennedy as the most potent critic of President Johnson's Vietnam war policy.

Robert Kennedy always supported the Warren Commission's findings on his brother's assassination. The commission said it found no evidence of any conspiracy, that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.